

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

LORI POLLOCK,

Plaintiff,

v.

DERMOT SHEA, Individually and in His  
Official Capacity as Police Commissioner  
and, CITY OF NEW YORK, a municipal  
entity,

Defendants

**Case No. 20-cv-6273**

**COMPLAINT**

**I. Preliminary Statement**

1. This is an employment related civil rights action against the Defendant parties, individually and collectively, for violation of Plaintiff's guaranteed constitutional right to equal terms and conditions of employment.

2. The New York City Police Department, Plaintiff's employer, and Police Commissioner Dermot Shea, individually, and as the final policy maker for this agency, engage in practices and actions which deny to senior female uniformed police managers the same advancement and opportunities for advancement as males.

3. In other words, these defendants have created a "glass ceiling" or barrier to advancement for women to senior management levels within the New York City Police Department.

4. The Plaintiff seeks monetary damages for constitutional violations and the treatment and conduct complained of in this action which has caused her the loss of advancement and opportunities in employment; loss of pay, benefits and pension; extreme stress; humiliation; embarrassment, mental anguish; and damage to her

reputation for which she seeks relief as deemed appropriate to serve the interests of justice and assure that her remedy is full and complete.

## **II. Jurisdiction and Venue**

5. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to and under 28 U.S.C. Sections 1331 and 1343 (a) and in conjunction with the Civil Rights Act of 1871, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

6. Plaintiff also seeks the pendent/supplemental jurisdiction of this Court, pursuant to 28 USC §1367 in conjunction with the laws of the City of New York under the Human Rights Law.

7. The value of the rights in question is in excess of \$100,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs.

8. The Plaintiff also invokes the jurisdiction of this Court in conjunction with the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. Sections 2201, et. seq., this being an action in which the Plaintiff, while seeking monetary damages, also seeks declaratory and injunctive relief if such is deemed necessary and desirable and in the interest of justice in order to provide the Plaintiff with a full and complete remedy for the violation of her rights.

## **III. Jury Trial Demanded**

9. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on each and every one of her claims as set for the below.

#### **IV. Parties**

10. The Plaintiff is a resident of New York County and a white female formerly employed by the New York City Police Department as a uniformed member of the service with the rank of three-star Chief.

11. City of New York is a municipal corporation with its principal office located in New York County.

12. Dermot Shea, at all times relevant, was the police commissioner of the New York City Police Department and a final policy maker for the New York City Police Department.

13. Shea derives his authority, funding and power from the City of New York.

14. The reference to “all defendants” in this complaint means the City of New York and Shea, in his individual and official capacity, unless otherwise stated.

#### **V. Relevant Facts**

15. Lori Pollock [Pollock] is a former, female, New York City Police Department Chief, having attained a three-star rank and designation in or about April of 2018

16. Pollock is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York, City of New York, New York County.

17. Pollock began her police service in or about April 28, 1987.

18. During her police career she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree through Empire State College/SUNY 2000 and her masters of arts degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2019.

19. During her police career, Pollock has received numerous awards, commendations and various invitations to speak at public events, including a commencement address to graduates at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2019, and a violent crime symposium hosted by the Home Office in London, England, .

20. After 7 years, Pollock attained the rank of sergeant through a competitive civil service testing process on or about July 1994.

21. After 10 years, Pollock attained the rank of lieutenant through a competitive civil service testing process on or about November 1997.

22. After 14 years, Pollock attained the rank of captain through a competitive civil service testing process on or about July 2001.

23. While employed in these management positions between July 1994-July 2001, Pollock gained operational experience necessary to serve as an effective department executive in field training, patrol, integrity control, internal investigations, police involved shooting investigations, community policing, undercover operations and all operations related to patrol duties and responsibilities.

24. In 2001, as a newly promoted Captain, Pollock was assigned as the Executive Officer of PSA-7 which covers uniformed and plain clothes patrol operations in public housing developments in the south Bronx.

25. On September 11, 2001 through October 2001, Pollock was assigned to supervise security at the inner perimeter of Ground Zero following the deadly terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

26. Starting October 2001 through 2018, for seventeen years, Pollock gained unmatched executive experience supervising investigations involving homicides,



conspiracies, gun trafficking, narcotics trafficking, internal corruption investigations, police impersonations and applicant background investigations as detailed below.

27. In October 2001, Pollock was assigned to the Manhattan South Narcotics Division, as a group Captain under the Organized Crime Control Bureau and supervised narcotics enforcement investigations, including, but not limited to, street level buy and bust operations, search warrants and drug related conspiracy cases.

28. In this role, she supervised approximately 100 undercovers, investigators and supervisors in enforcement actions against illegal narcotics trafficking operations in lower Manhattan.

29. In 2007, Pollock became the executive officer of Brooklyn North Narcotics and was, thereafter, promoted to Deputy Inspector, after 20 years of service.

30. In her role as a Deputy Inspector in Brooklyn North Narcotics, she was second in command and supervised and coordinated over 250 officers, detectives and their supervisors in enforcement actions involving narcotics and gun related investigations.

31. In this assignment, her strategic initiatives and leadership contributed to a reduction in violence in the high crime neighborhoods under her purview.

32. Thereafter, in 2011, Pollock was appointed as Commanding Officer of Manhattan North Narcotics, and one month later promoted to the rank of Inspector, after 24 years of service.

33. In this role, Pollock strategically deployed over 200 under covers, detectives and supervisors to dismantle and address violent narcotic gangs and other criminal organizations involved in narcotics distribution, gun trafficking and gun violence.

34. Pollock and the officers she supervised were extremely successful in these dangerous and challenging assignments.

35. This was accomplished, in part, through Pollock's dedicated and knowledgeable leadership and experience in the deployment of investigatory tools, street buys, confidential informants, search warrants, wire taps and successful prosecutions in both state and federal court.

36. After being promoted to Deputy Chief in 2014, Pollock served as the Commanding Officer, Special Operations, Internal Affairs until February 2016.

37. During this period of time, she supervised and coordinated the efforts of the Internal Affairs Bureau's operational support units which functioned on a 24/7 operational schedule.

38. Pollock was responsible for overseeing serious police misconduct investigations, including those investigations involving the highest-ranking officers within the police department.

39. In this role, Pollock was also involved with integrity testing throughout the department, command center operations, training, and surveillance to confront and minimize corruption.

40. From February 2016 until February 2017, Pollock was appointed to serve as the inaugural Investigative Chief of Detective Borough Manhattan North.

41. This was a newly created position by then Police Commissioner James O'Neill which incorporated under one unified Manhattan North command structure all narcotic units, gang units, detective units, and homicide units.

42. In this role, Pollock commanded approximately 450 members of the department assigned to investigatory duties.

43. Pollock was responsible for thousands of criminal investigations involving homicides, shootings, narcotic trafficking, gun trafficking, robberies, burglaries, and many investigations designed to combat the opioid epidemic including groundbreaking federal prosecutions of opioid dealers.

44. From February 2017 until April 2018, Pollock served as the Deputy Chief, Commanding Officer of the Candidate Assessment Division, responsible for the operations, processes and procedures relating to background investigations and assessments of over 20,000 candidates annually for employment as police officers, school safety officers, traffic agents and police communication technicians (911 dispatchers).

45. During this period of time, Pollock introduced greater efficiencies throughout the division to process candidates through the required medical, character, physical and psychological screenings.

46. On or about April 18, 2018, after 31 years of service, Pollock was promoted to the rank of three-star Chief by then Police Commissioner James O'Neill.

47. From April 2018 until July 2020 Pollock served as a three-star Chief, one of only 5 women in the NYPD's 175-year history to hold this rank.

48. On or about April 18, 2018, Pollock served as the Chief of Crime Control Strategies in charge of developing and implementing cutting edge, efficient and effective strategies to suppress crime, achieving the lowest number of indexed crimes in the modern era, and contributing to making NYC the safest big city in America.

49. During this time, Pollock was Co-Chair of the highly publicized weekly Compstat meetings, ensuring leader accountability through data driven policing for deployment, crime conditions, investigations and outcomes.

50. Pollock served as a key member of the Police Commissioner's Executive Staff, responsible for weekly crime and deployment briefings, briefing the press, city executives, including the Mayor of the City of New York, and the public at large on all matters pertaining to public safety

51. Pollock was the spokesperson for the police department for crime strategies, statistics and data driven tactics.

52. Pollock also oversaw a team of data scientists and 100 crime analysts deployed throughout the city to expand the use of the science of crime analysis within the police department.

53. Pollock implemented and supervised the development of unique data analytics and artificial intelligence programs to identify crime patterns.

54. Pollock participated in a then existing multi-agency effort to address the opioid crisis.

55. Pollock has always performed her duties and functions as a member of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) in an exemplary manner and she is a highly dedicated and loyal public servant.

56. However, Pollock, because of her gender has not been able to advance her career in the same manner and to the same extent that a male has been able to do within the department.



57. As more specifically stated below, the inability of women like Pollock to advance to the most prestigious executive positions within the NYPD is due to the gender based and long-standing “glass ceiling” policy within the NYPD which inhibits, prohibits and denies career advancement to women executives within the NYPD.

58. As a result, qualified women executives are forced to retire given the totality of the circumstances which amount to working conditions so intolerable, difficult, and unpleasant that a reasonable person would feel compelled to leave her employment.

59. Pollock was forced to retire her police career because of her gender rather than continue to endure no opportunity for advancement and the loss of her staff, authority and management responsibilities.

### **The NYPD Advancement Process**

#### **The Objective Written Process**

60. Promotion to the rank of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain is accomplished through an objective civil service promotional examination administered by Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS).

61. The objective process involves the publication, posting and distribution of announcements in printed publications and prominent locations, notifying all eligible uniformed members of the date of the written examination, the subjects to be covered on the examination, eligibility requirements and the passing grade.

62. For example, to be eligible for promotion to the rank of sergeant, you are notified that you must have served permanently in the rank of Police Officer for at least five years and have successfully completed the probationary period for the rank of

police officer and attained a specified number of college credits, among other requirements.

63. All uniformed members meeting the eligibility requirements are eligible to compete for promotion through the written testing process.

64. All candidates who pass each promotional examination are placed on a civil service list in order of grade, highest to lowest.

65. Each promotional list is made available to the public listing each passing uniformed officer by name and grade score.

66. Everyone passing the written examination is eligible for promotion subject to verification that the candidate has met all the promotional requirements.

67. Given the objective nature of the promotional process from police officer to captain, women can compete fairly for promotion within these ranks.

#### **The Subjective Discretionary Advancement Process**

68. After promotion to the rank of captain, advancement to the rank of deputy inspector, inspector, deputy chief, assistant chief, and chief is at the discretion of the police commissioner.

69. The Police Commissioner does not rely on objective selection criteria.

70. The Police Commissioner does not rely on an objective selection process.

71. The Police Commissioner does not publicize the requirements for the position of First Deputy Commissioner, Chief of the Department, Chief of Patrol, and Chief of Detectives.

72. The Police Commissioner does not provide any opportunity for women executive managers to interview and compete for these positions.

73. The Police Commissioner does not rely upon any input from the Office of Equity and Inclusion to ensure equity and diversity within the selection process.

74. On the official NYPD website, the Office of Equity and Inclusion states its mission as follows: “[it] reaches beyond the mere presence of diversity, instead ensuring that employees' unique identities and experiences are valued, welcomed, and leveraged. Our commitment to an equitable and inclusive work environment where employees are engaged, valued and have opportunities will have a direct impact on how our employees interact with the diverse communities we serve.”

75. In the 175-year history of the NYPD, women have never had an opportunity, like men, to compete for the highest-ranking leadership positions within the NYPD, specifically, Police Commissioner, First Deputy Police Commissioner, Chief of Department, Chief of Patrol and Chief of Detectives.

76. An objective examination of the “Department Allocation Ethnic Rank Report” prepared by the Personnel Bureau-Strategic Analysis Unit, Monday, July 13, 2020 indicates that the advancement of women within the uniform ranks of the department is not independent of gender.

77. In other words, an examination of the above noted objective data, as of July 13, 2020, indicates that women are less likely than men to advance to higher uniform ranks.

78. Likewise, an examination of the above noted objective data indicates that women are less likely than men to hold ranks of Deputy Inspector through Chief.

### **Relevant Facts**

79. In November 2019 Pollock participated in a transition meeting involving the newly appointed police commissioner Dermot Shea.

80. In attendance at this meeting, were the highest-ranking executives within the NYPD.

81. Pollock had been advised before-hand to prepare a presentation for newly appointed police commissioner Shea to highlight her present duties and responsibilities as Chief of the Bureau of Crime Control Strategies and the future of this bureau within the Department.

82. During Pollock's presentation, Shea's disregard for the input of women managers, such as Pollock, was readily apparent because he was distracted looking at his telephone for most of Pollock's presentation.

83. In other words what Pollock had to say at this meeting was discounted by Shea.

84. At the conclusion of this meeting, Pollock was asked if she had anything additional to add and she stated: "I would like to be considered for the Chief of Detectives."

85. This was the position Shea vacated after being appointed to the position of Police Commissioner in December 2019.

86. Pollock was more than qualified for promotion to Chief of Detectives.

87. For men serving in the position of Chief of Crime Control Strategies or as it was previously known the Deputy Commissioner of Operations, it is a stepping-stone to career advancement.



88. For example, Shea initially served as Deputy Commissioner of Operations (2014) which transitioned into the Bureau of Crime Control Strategies.

89. After serving as the Chief of Crime Control Strategies, Shea advanced to the position of Chief of Detectives and then Police Commissioner.

90. Phil Pulaski served as Deputy Commissioner of Operations (before it was known as Crime Control Strategies) and advanced to Chief of Detectives in 2009.

91. Pollock was never even given the opportunity by Shea to advance from her position in Crime Control Strategies, unlike men who held this title.

92. In fact, as further described below, Pollock was demoted by Shea.

#### **The December 2019 Demotion**

93. On December 6, 2019, Pollock was called to a meeting with Shea and advised there would be some changes.

94. Shea stated to Pollock that he thought she was “valuable.”

95. He also further stated that Susan Herman was very intelligent.

96. Shea advised that Pollock would be moved to Chief of Collaborative Policing, a position previously held by a civilian, Susan Herman, who reported directly to the police commissioner.

97. He also stated he was bringing Chauncey Parker on board.

98. Parker was a civilian who had applied for the position of Chief of Collaborative Policing.

99. That position had been vacant for at least 11 months because, in fact, it was considered marginally important to operations, at best.

100. Shea advised Pollock he wanted her to work on youth strategy “with” assistant commissioner Kevin O'Connor (SMART Unit Detective Bureau), Nilda Hoffman (3-star Chief Community Affairs) and Parker.

101. On Monday, December 9, 2020 a department wide email was transmitted by Shea in which he revealed the formation of a new Bureau of Community Partnerships (BCP).

102. This email also revealed to Pollock for the first time that Shea selected Parker as the Deputy Commissioner in charge of this newly organized Bureau

103. In his role as Deputy Commissioner of BCP, Parker was appointed by Shea to manage and supervise three subordinate commands, Community Affairs (Hoffman), Collaborative Policing (Pollock), and Youth Strategies (O'Connor).

104. None of the organizational changes publicly disclosed in the email by Shea were discussed with Pollock in her meeting with Shea on December 6 when he told her there would be “some” changes.

105. Parker was not and never was a member of the NYPD.

106. In sum, by this re-organization process, Shea demoted Pollock, a female 3-star chief, to a role subordinate to Parker, a male, civilian whose prior experience and qualifications are unrelated to police operations and management.

107. This is a starkly different career trajectory for Pollock as compared to her male predecessors who had the title of Chief of Crime Control Strategies or Deputy Commissioner of Operations.

108. Pollock was far more qualified than Parker to lead BCP.

109. In assigning Pollock as Chief of Collaborative Policing subordinate to Parker, Shea removed Pollock's authority, staff and management responsibilities from her.

110. This adverse treatment was based upon gender.

111. In fact, Shea completely disrespected, discounted and disparaged Pollock because of her gender in this process by deliberately failing to include her in any discussions involving the re-organization.

112. Shea completely disrespected, discounted and disparaged Pollock because of her gender because he did not seek or consider her input regarding the re-organization.

113. Shea completely disrespected, discounted and disparaged Pollock because of her gender because he did not seek her input into the selection process.

114. Shea completely disrespected, discounted and disparaged Pollock because of her gender because he did not offer her the opportunity to interview for the position to lead BCP or Chief of Detectives.

115. The selection of Parker by Shea was gender based.

116. In addition, other qualified women were never offered the opportunity to compete or interview to lead BCP

117. On Monday, December 9 Pollock had a meeting with Parker, her new direct report.

118. Pollock expressed her anger about her adverse gender based treatment by Shea to Parker by stating; "first I get dumped to this position and then you tell me you are my supervisor and don't you think that is a kick in my teeth?"

119. On the same day, Pollock was summoned to a meeting in the police commissioner's executive conference room to learn that there would be a promotion ceremony conducted by Shea to install his new promotees.

120. Present at this ceremony were more than 30 of the top executives in the NYPD.

121. Pollock was not advised in advance about the purpose of this meeting.

122. Normally, the top executives in the Department sit according to rank, title and authority at these events.

123. Previously in her position as Chief of Crime Control Strategies, Pollock sat three seats removed from the commissioner at all meetings conducted in the executive conference room.

124. On this day, and given her demotion by Shea, Pollock sat on the other end of the table from where she normally sat and at a distance from the police commissioner.

125. During the meeting, and in front of the entire executive staff, Shea shouted to Pollock and stated: "Hey Lori how do you like it at the other end of the table?"

126. This remark was disrespectful, disparaging and denigrating, by design.

127. By this remark, Shea also showed his absolute disregard for his adverse treatment of Pollock.

128. On December 9, 2019, after the ceremony, Pollock went to speak with Deputy Commissioner Vincent Grippio, chief of staff to the police commissioner, to complain about her treatment.



129. On December 10, 2019, Pollock met with Parker and during this meeting Parker requested that Pollock assist him with obtaining: (a) drawings for his new office; (b) a telephone and (c) personnel.

130. This type of request is based upon gender-based stereotyping prevalent in the NYPD about the role and capabilities of women within the police department.

131. Parker would have never requested that a three-star male Chief within the NYPD perform clerical duties for him.

132. On December 23, 2019, Pollock made an appointment to speak with Shea to request that he re-consider her assignment.

133. Shea requested that Pollock give him 30 days.

134. Pollock heard nothing further from Shea.

135. Pollock made another appointment with Shea, on February 24, 2020.

136. At this meeting Pollock advised Shea that she was going to the pension section on March 2 for separation from service by the end of March.

137. Shea then stated, in sum and substance, he would not accept her resignation.

138. He acknowledged that he said he would get back to her but there has been little movement.

139. Shea acknowledged that “structurally [her] transfer was wrong.”

140. And despite giving every opportunity to Shea to correct his blatant gender based adverse treatment of Pollock, Shea failed to do so.

141. Because of her gender, Shea never considered Pollock for any of the highest-ranking leaderships positions in his administration.

142. Shea, like other male commissioners before him, exercised his discretion in a gender-based way which has prevented the advancement of women and, in fact, perpetuated a “glass ceiling” for women seeking the highest leadership positions in the NYPD.

143. In other words, because of her gender, Pollock was unable to advance her career like her male counterparts to the highest leadership positions in the department.

144. The highest leadership positions in the NYPD are Chief of Patrol, Chief of Detectives, Chief of Department and First Deputy Commissioner.

145. Shea did not consider or select any of the highly qualified female police chiefs for the positions of Deputy Commissioner of BCP, Chief of Crime Control Strategies, Chief of Detectives, Chief of Patrol, Chief of Operations, or Chief of Housing.

146. A Police Commissioner has never promoted a woman to serve as Chief of Patrol in the 175-year history of the NYPD

147. A Police Commissioner has never promoted a woman to serve as Chief of Detectives in the 175-year history of the NYPD.

148. A Police Commissioner has never promoted a woman to serve as Chief of Department in the 175-year history of the NYPD.

149. Pollock was the first and only woman to serve as Chief of Crime Control Strategies.

150. A woman has never been appointed to serve as Police Commissioner in the 175-year history of the NYPD.

151. Unlike Pollock, and because of his gender, Rodney Harrison was able to advance from Captain to Chief of Patrol.

152. Unlike Pollock, and because of his gender, Shea promoted Rodney Harrison on December 20, 2019 to Chief of Detectives.

153. Pollock was never even offered an interview for promotion to Chief of Detectives, despite expressing to Shea at a transition meeting on November 20, 2019 that she would like to be considered for the position.

154. Unlike other qualified women, and because of his gender, Shea promoted Raymond Spinella, on July 22, 2020 to Chief of Operations without, based upon information and belief, affording any qualified women the opportunity to interview for the job.

155. Unlike Pollock and because of his gender, Shea promoted Fausto B. Pichardo to Chief of Patrol Services.

156. Based upon information and belief, other qualified women were never offered the opportunity to interview for this position.

157. Pollock was never even offered an interview for promotion to Chief of Patrol despite expressing to Shea she would like to advance her career.

158. Because of his gender, Shea promoted Michael LiPetri to Chief of Crime Control Strategies on December 18, 2019 without, based upon information and belief, affording any qualified women the opportunity to interview for the job.

159. Because of his gender, Shea promoted Dave Barrere to Chief of Housing Police without, based upon information and belief, affording any qualified women like Pollock the opportunity to interview for the job.

160. It became apparent to Pollock that Shea would never offer her any career advancement or opportunities within the NYPD, despite his assurances and promises to do so on more than one occasion.

161. Effective August 6, 2020, Pollock chose to leave her police career finding she had no alternative because it was more than clear to her that she could not advance her career.

162. Significantly, it was more than clear to Pollock that despite every opportunity she had given Shea to correct his adverse treatment of her by demoting her, Shea was not going to do so.

163. Thus, Shea deliberately and intentionally created working conditions so intolerable, difficult, or unpleasant for Pollock that a reasonable person in her position would have felt compelled to leave her employment.

#### **Commissioner Shea is the Final Policy Maker of the NYPD**

164. The City Charter, Chapter 18, Section 434, provides that the police commissioner “shall be the chief executive officer of the police force. He shall be chargeable with and responsible for the execution of all laws and the rules and regulations of the department.”

165. As the final policy-maker, Shea deliberately implemented, condoned, sanctioned and ratified a “glass ceiling” policy and practice within the NYPD which excluded qualified women, like Pollock, from advancing to the highest ranking uniform leadership positions in the department thereby depriving women, like Pollock, of an equal opportunity, as compared to their male counterparts, to advance their careers, their earning capacity, pension and benefits.



166. As a result, Pollock was denied advancement and opportunities to advance based upon her gender because of the “glass ceiling” policy and practice.

167. Pollock, as a female member of the NYPD, had a constitutional right to be treated equally as compared to her male counterparts in advancements and opportunities to advance her police career.

168. As the official with final policy-making authority, Shea deliberately and intentionally perpetuated the “glass ceiling” policy and practice on behalf of the City of New York by demoting Pollock in her duties, responsibilities and authority.

169. As a result, Pollock was demoted by Shea based upon her gender because of the “glass ceiling” policy and practice

170. Shea knew or reasonably should have known that women must be advanced at the same rate and in the same manner as males within the uniform ranks of the department.

171. Shea knew or reasonably should have known that women must be afforded equal opportunities for advancement within the uniform ranks of the NYPD.

172. In fact, Shea had an affirmative obligation to ensure that all qualified women were afforded equal opportunities to advance their careers within the uniform ranks of the NYPD.

173. Shea, despite his knowledge of his affirmative obligations as noted above, failed to treat Pollock equally to her male counterparts in the terms and conditions of her employment including career advancement and opportunities for advancement within the uniform ranks of the department.

174. Shea is individually responsible for this conduct.

**Facts Supporting Monell Liability As Against The City of New York**

175. Shea, as the final policy maker of the NYPD deliberately created, condoned, sanctioned and ratified the “glass ceiling” policy and practice on behalf of the City of New York whereby qualified women, like Pollock, are denied an equal opportunity as compared to male counterparts to advance their careers to leaderships positions within the uniform ranks of the NYPD which adversely effects their earning capacity, pension and benefits.

176. As a result, Pollock was denied promotional opportunities based upon her gender because of the “glass ceiling” policy and practice.

177. Shea, as the final policy maker for the NYPD, deliberately perpetuated the “glass ceiling” policy and practice on behalf of the City of New York by demoting Pollock in her duties, responsibilities and authority.

178. As a result, Pollock was demoted based upon her gender because of the “glass ceiling” policy and practice that is pervasive within the NYPD.

179. The City of New York is liable for Shea’s conduct in condoning, ratifying, and perpetuating the “glass ceiling” policy and practice.

180. Both Shea and the City of New York had an affirmative obligation to ensure that all qualified women, like Pollock, were afforded equal advancement and equal opportunities to advance their career within all ranks of the NYPD.

181. Both Shea and the City of New York had an affirmative obligation to ensure that all qualified women, like Pollock, were treated equally to men with respect to

career opportunities and advancement.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:**

**VIOLATION OF 42 USC §1983 AND THE EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE OF THE  
FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION BY  
DERMOT SHEA INDIVIDUALLY AND IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS THE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER**

182. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

183. By his individual and official conduct and actions and policies, defendant Shea has individually and in his official capacity treated plaintiff differently than her male counterparts in the advancement of her career and advancement opportunities within the uniform ranks of the department.

184. By his individual and official conduct and actions and policies, defendant Shea has individually and in his official capacity treated plaintiff differently than her male counterparts by demoting her based upon her gender.

185. Defendant Shea has violated plaintiff's right under the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution pursuant to 42 USC §1983.

186. Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION:**

**VIOLATION OF 42 USC §1983 AND THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE  
UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION BY THE POLICIES, PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS  
OF CITY OF NEW YORK**

187. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

188. The policies, practices and customs of the City of New York described above propelled the actions and conduct at issue in this complaint.

189. Those policies, practices and customs violated the plaintiff's rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

190. The plaintiff suffered injuries and damages.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION:**  
**VIOLATION OF TITLE 8 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK BY SHEA, INDIVIDUALLY AND OFFICIALLY**

191. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

192. By his individual conduct and actions and policies, defendant Shea has individually treated plaintiff differently than her male counterparts in the advancement of her career and advancement opportunities within the uniform ranks of the department.

193. By his individual conduct and actions and policies, defendant Shea has individually treated plaintiff differently than her male counterparts by demoting her based upon her gender.

194. By his conduct and actions and policies, defendant Shea has individually violated the plaintiff's rights under New York City Human Rights Law based upon gender.

195. Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages.



**AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**  
**VIOLATION OF TITLE 8 OF THE NEW YORK CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK BY THE CITY OF NEW YORK AS AN EMPLOYER**

196. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

197. Pursuant to strict liability, the City of New York is responsible for Shea's conduct and actions in treating plaintiff differently than her male counterparts in the advancement of her career and advancement opportunities within the uniform ranks of the department.

198. Pursuant to strict liability, the City of New York is responsible for Shea's conduct and actions in treating plaintiff differently than her male counterparts by demoting her based upon her gender.

199. Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages.

**AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION:**  
**VIOLATION OF TITLE 8 OF THE NEW YORK CITY ADMINISTRATIVE  
CODE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
(Constructive Discharge)**

200. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

201. Plaintiff was subjected to a gender based discriminatory work environment where women are unable to advance their careers based upon a "glass ceiling" which has been perpetuated, condoned, ratified and sanctioned by the named defendant parties in this action.

202. A reasonable person in the plaintiff's position, given the totality of the circumstances, would have felt compelled to resign her career. Thus, Shea deliberately and intentionally created working conditions so intolerable, difficult, or unpleasant for

Pollock that a reasonable person in her position would have felt compelled to leave her employment.

203. That the defendant parties deliberately and intentionally demoted the plaintiff in duties, responsibilities and authority subordinate to a male civilian based upon gender.

204. That this public demotion was humiliating by design based upon gender.

205. As a result of the actions and conduct of the named Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer compensatory damages, including but not limited to back pay, front pay, prejudgment interest and loss of law enforcement career opportunities.

206. As a result of the actions and conduct of the named Defendant, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer emotional distress, including extreme anxiety, depression, loss of sleep, loss of appetite, loss of reputation, humiliation, loss of employment opportunities, embarrassment and consequential damages.

**WHEREFORE**, plaintiff demands the following relief jointly and severally against all of the defendants:

- a. Declaratory judgment stating that Defendants' practices, policies and procedures violated the equal protection rights of women, such as Pollock, within the NYPD career advancement process resulting in a violation of equal protection for women and the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution as provided by 42 USC § 1983, and Title 8 of the New York City Administrative Code, § 8-107;

- b. Injunctive relief against the Defendants and its employees and any and all persons acting in concert with them from engaging in the unlawful practices, policies and customs described in this complaint;
- c. Injunctive relief which directs Defendants and its employees and any and all persons acting in concert with them to take such affirmative action as is necessary to ensure that the effects of these unlawful employment practices are eliminated and do not continue to effect female employees within the NYPD. Such action may include proper and independent oversight and management of the promotional process within the NYPD to ensure that women are treated equally to men;
- d. Enter judgment against Defendants on all causes of action and an award of compensatory damages, consequential, punitive and/or exemplary damages, in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. attorneys' fees and costs, in an amount to be determined at trial;
- f. pre and post judgment interest, in an amount to be determined at trial and
- g. for further relief as this court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
August 4, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

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By: 

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